Sub the sp

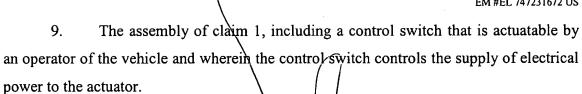
1. A parking brake assembly, comprising:

an engaging portion that is moveable into a braking position;
a spring that biases the engaging portion into the braking position; and
an electrically powered actuator that moves the spring against the bias of

CLAIMS

the spring to thereby release the engaging portion from the braking position.

- 2. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the actuator comprises an electric motor.
 - 3. The assembly of claim 2, wherein the actuator comprises a servo motor.
 - 4. The assembly of claim 2, wherein the actuator comprises a linear actuator.
- 5. The assembly of claim 1, including an arm associated with the actuator and a support near one end of the arm, the support engaging a portion of the spring such that movement of the arm causes movement of the spring against the bias of the spring.
- 6. The assembly of claim 4, wherein the arm rotates about an axis of the arm and the rotation of the arm causes linear movement of the support.
- 7. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the actuator moves into a disengage position where the engaging portion is released from the braking position when the actuator is energized at a first level and the actuator releases the spring to bias the engaging portion into the braking position when the actuator is energized at a second level.
- 8. The assembly of claim 7, wherein the second level includes the actuator being de-energized.



- 10. The assembly of claim 1, including an electronic controller that regulates power supplied to the actuator.
- 11. The assembly of claim 10, wherein the controller automatically cuts off power to the actuator under selected conditions.

All

- 12. A method of controlling a vehicle parking brake that is spring activated, comprising the steps of:
- (A) permitting the spring to bias the parking brake into a braking condition; and
- (B) selectively releasing the parking brake by electrically powering an electrical actuator that causes movement of the spring against the bias of the spring.
- 13. The method of claim 12, wherein step (B) includes energizing the actuator to thereby release the parking brake.
- 14. The method of claim 12, wherein step (A) includes de-energizing the actuator.